Purchasing powers of C.IX.

3403. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have taken away all purchasing powers that were delegated to the Coal India Limited (CIL) and have decided that henceforth the seven coal producing subsidiaries of the CIL will make their own purchases;

(b) whether Government have also taken away the marketing rights enjoyed by the CIL for non-core sector consumers; and

(c) if so, the objective behind this move?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) The Government have decided that all powers exercised by Coal India Limited (CIL)relating to procurement of all items, except procurement of explosives be delegatedto its coal producing subsidiaries. Accordingly, CIL have been directed to take necessary steps in this regard.

(b) The Government have also directed CIL to delegate powers relating to marketing in the non-core sector in case of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited and South Eastern Coalfields Limited to the respective subsidiary companies.

(c) The objective behind the move is to enable CIL to focus and concentrate on providing overall guidance and direction in terms of medium and long term strategic planning, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of strategic decisions. By unburdening itself of operational responsibilities that can easily be handled by subsidiary companies, CIL will be able to contribute better towards achieving the crucial targets of increased production and turn around. This move would also make the subsidiaries more competitive and result in quicker decision making at the operational level.

People Killed and Injured in Coal Mine Accidents

3404. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) The number of people killed and injured in the accidents in coal mines under different coal companies during last three years;